also provides assistance to some non-food programme.

Late Running of Puri Express

4193. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether late running of Puri Express has become a regular feature; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to maintain the punctuality of the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During November, 1991, train reached right time at Puri on 11 days and at New Delhi on 8 days.

(b) Intensive chasing to eliminate detentions within the control of Railways.

Clinical Trials of Ayuruedic Drugs

4194. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any practice of conducting clinical trials before new Ayurvedic Drug is introduced in the market;

(b) if so, the details of the procedure; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and where the Government propose to introduce such a methodolody?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). No, Sir. Clinical trials are not considered necessary and are not provided in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act because the safety and efficacy of Ayurvedic medicines are time tested and documented in authentic ayurvedic books which are specified in the 1st Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Accordingly, the clinical trials of Ayurvedic drugs are not a statutory requirement under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

However, although there are no "new" drugs in Ayurveda as are available in modern systems of medicine, there are some patent and proprietory drugs which are prepared from various combinations of drugs mentioned in authentic Ayurvedic books. There is a proposal to subject these drugs for clinical trials and suitable instructions have been issued to the State Drugs Licensing authorities in November 1990.

[*Translation*]

Bhavnagar-Surendra Nagar Broad Gauge Line

4195. DR. MAHAVIRSINH HARISINHJI GOHIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding linking of Bhavnagar and Sur ndra Nagar through broad gauge line; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to constraint or resources, it is not proposed to take up this project at present.